

In response to the Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2, 9, 16, 20 and 27 without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 1, 8, 15, 19 and 26 as follows:

Q 1. (Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising hiding means for forming second identification information not easily recognizable with eye and different in form from first identification information relating to a copyright and not easily recognizable with eye, said hiding means also for setting the second identification information in image data containing the first identification information,

wherein the first identification information is formed by a first color signal, and said hiding means comprises color conversion means for performing color conversion of the image data, and forming means for forming the second identification information by a second color signal different from the first color signal forming the color-converted first identification information in the color-converted image data.

Cancel claim 2

on 8. (Amended) An image processing method comprising a setting step including:

forming a second identification information not easily recognizable with eye and different in form from first identification information relating to a copyright and not easily recognizable with eye; and

setting the second identification information in image data containing the first identification information,

wherein the first identification information is formed by a first color signal, and said setting step comprises performing color conversion of the image data and forming the second identification information by a second color signal different from the first color signal forming the color-converted first identification information in the color-converted image data.

Cancel claim 9

15. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising a program for a setting process stored therein, the setting process including:

forming second identification information not easily recognizable with eye and different in form from first identification information relating to a copyright and not easily recognizable with eye; and

setting the second identification information in image data containing the first identification information,

wherein the first identification information is formed by a first color signal, and the setting process comprises color conversion processing for performing color conversion of the image data and forming processing for forming the second identification

03 information by a second color signal different from the first color signal forming the color-converted first identification information in the color-converted image data.

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Cancel claim 16

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04 5.7 31 19. (Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising hiding means for forming second identification information not easily recognizable with eye and different in form from first identification information not easily recognizable with eye, said hiding means also for setting the second identification information in image data containing the first identification information,

wherein the first identification information is formed by a first color signal, and said hiding means comprises color conversion means for performing color conversion of the image data, and forming means for forming the second identification information by a second color signal different from the first color signal forming the color-converted first identification information in the color-converted image data.

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Cancel claim 20

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07 5.7 31 26. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising a program for a setting process stored therein, the setting process including:

forming a second identification information not easily recognizable with eye and different in form from first identification information and not easily recognizable with eye; and

setting the second identification information in image data containing the first identification information,

wherein the first identification information is formed by a first color signal, and the setting process comprises color conversion processing for performing color conversion of the image data and forming processing for forming the second identification information by a second color signal different from the first color signal forming the color-converted first identification information in the color-converted image data.

Cancel claim 27

Please add Claims 30-40 as follows:

30. An image processing apparatus, comprising:

an input unit for inputting image data comprised of a plurality of color components;

a first identification circuit for adding first identification data to one of the plurality of color components of the input image data having a first tone;

a converter for performing color conversion of the input image data including the one of the plurality of color components to which the first identification data has been added; and

a second identification circuit for adding second identification data to a color component of the color converted input image data having a second tone which is different from the first tone of the one of the plurality of color components to which the first identification data was added,

wherein the first identification data is discriminable from the second identification data based on a color difference between the first tone and the second tone.

color difference between the first tone and the second tone.

31. The image processing apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein the first identification data and the second identification data are respectively added to different data locations.

32. The image processing apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein the input image data includes Red (R), Green (G) and Blue (B) color components, and said first identification circuit adds the first identification data to the R color component.

→ B color

33. The image processing apparatus according to Claim 32, wherein the color converted image data includes Magenta (M), Cyan (C) and Yellow (Y) color components, and said second identification circuit adds the second identification data to the Y color component.

34. The image processing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the first identification data and the second identification data are respectively added to different data locations.

35. The image processing apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein said first identification circuit includes means for making a size of the first identification data different than a size of the second identification data.

wherein the first identification data is further discriminable from the second identification data based on a size difference between the first identification data and the second identification data.

36. An image processing apparatus, comprising:

an input unit for inputting image data comprised of a plurality of color components;

a first identification circuit for adding first identification data to one of the plurality of color components of the input image data, and including means for making a size of the first identification data different than a data size of data in other color components of the input image data;

a converter for performing color conversion of the input image data including the one of the plurality of color components to which the first identification data has been added; and

MP a second identification circuit for adding second identification data to a complementary color component of the color converted input image data of the one of the plurality of color components to which the first identification data was added with the second identification data having a same size as the data in the other color components of the input image data,

no embodiment, 2nd embod. diff. size

wherein the first identification data is discriminable from the second identification data based on a size difference between the first identification data and the second identification data.

37. The image processing apparatus according to Claim 36, wherein the first identification data and the second identification data are respectively added to different data locations.